

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

Voluntary - Public

Date: 4/6/2010

GAIN Report Number: MX0019

Mexico

Post: Mexico

Ports of Entry and Inspection Hours Changed

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Livestock and Products

Poultry and Products

Vegetables

Fresh Fruit

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Report Highlights:

In view of the recent spike in violence along the U.S. - Mexico border, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the National Service of Agro Alimentary Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) have modified their operations at ports of entry along the border in Northern Mexico. APHIS and SENASICA are currently collaborating on a long-term solution to ensure agricultural trade between the United States and Mexico is not impeded due to security concerns along the border.

General Information:

Effective March 29, 2010, APHIS suspended inspections of live animals for import into the United States at the ports of entry at Reynosa, Tamaulipas (Pharr, Texas) and Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas (Laredo, Texas). These operations have been shifted to the port of entry at Piedras Negras, Coahuila (Eagle Pass, Texas).

Effective April 5, 2010, SENASICA notified the Import Inspection Points (OISAS) located in the states of Nuevo Leon (Colombia) and Tamaulipas (Nuevo Laredo, Matamoros, and Reynosa) to modify their hours of operation. The new schedule for these OISAS locations will be 09:00 to 18:00 Monday – Friday.

APHIS and SENASICA are taking these temporary steps to ensure the safety of the employees within its import facilities. These temporary steps are subject to change without notice as a result of the security concerns along the border.